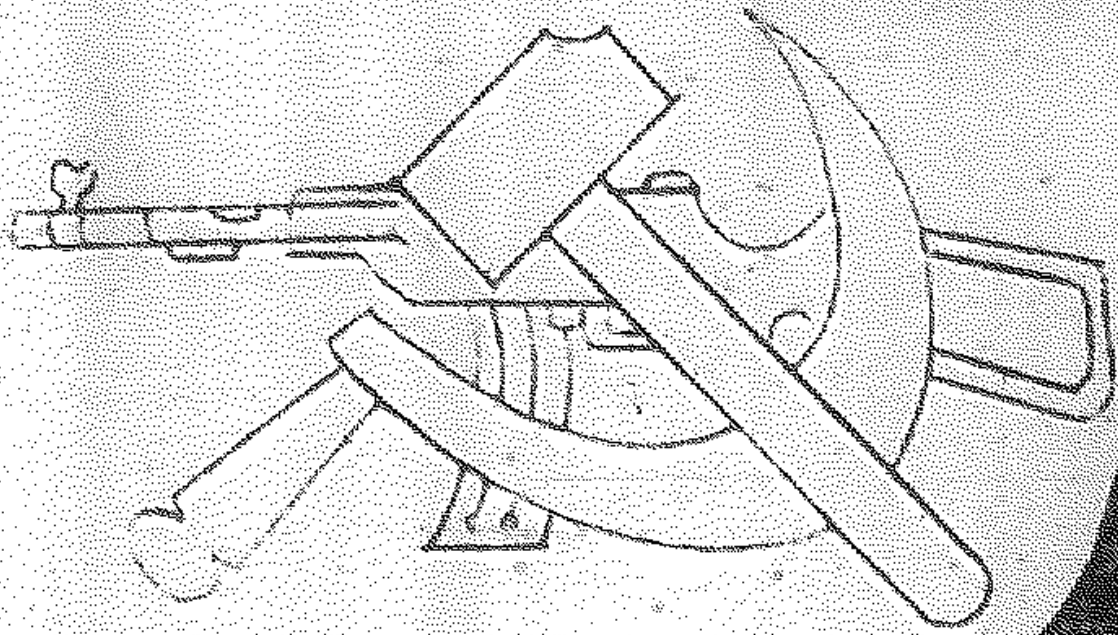


ANG

PAHAYAGAN NG PARTIDO KOMUNISTA NG PILIPINAS
PINAPATNUBAYAN NG
MARXISMO - LENINISMO - KAISIPANG MAO TSETUNG



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CONTENTS

CPP, NPA IN EASTERN VISAYAS RECTIFY ERRORS,
REDOUBLE REVOLUTIONARY EFFORTS p. 1

FRAUDULENT 'MASAGANA 99' SCHEME
SPARKS PEASANTS' UNITY, RESISTANCE p. 3

PHILIPPINES FACES ANOTHER
SEVERE RICE, CORN SHORTAGE p. 4

ISLAMIC CONFERENCE CONDEMNS MARCOS REGIME
FOR EVADING INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS p. 5

PHILIPPINE MEDICAL SERVICE
UNRESPONSIVE TO NEEDS OF THE MASSES p. 6

MEDICAL SERVICES IN PEOPLE'S CHINA
ADEQUATE, EVEN IN REMOTEST AREAS p. 9

POSTSCRIPT TO ZAMBOANGA CITY HIJACK:
AFP TROOPS ROBBED PAL PASSENGERS p. 11

CPP, NPA IN EASTERN VISAYAS RECTIFY ERRORS,
REDOUBLE REVOLUTIONARY EFFORTS

After rectifying errors of the past and heeding specific calls in "Our Urgent Tasks", the regional forces of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army in the Eastern Visayas are surging forward in rallying and organizing the masses to the national democratic revolution.

Ang Bayan correspondents reported that more than at any time since the CPP and NPA took roots in that region, the agrarian revolution is being given adequate attention and so is the establishment of peasant and other mass organizations.

The correspondents said the enthusiastic and militant support being given by the masses has enabled NPA units to evade the enemy's "encirclement and suppression" campaigns and undertake operations of their own against small and isolated units of the reactionary Armed Forces of the Philippines.

One such operation was the ambush sprung by two squads of Red fighters on a nine-man enemy patrol at the Dolores river in northern Samar last March 16.

The people's guerrillas killed six of the enemy troops and wounded another. The other two escaped by stopping a passing motorized banca and using the passengers as a shield.

The Red fighters also confiscated two M-16s, an M-79 grenade-launcher, a .38 caliber revolver, several M-16 magazines and several hundreds of M-16 and M-14 bullets.

Party cadres and Red fighters credited the relatively rapid consolidation and expansion of the revolutionary forces in the Eastern Visayas to the step-by-step implementation of the agrarian revolution. The peasants in that region are among the most exploited in the entire country.

"Our Urgent Tasks", a document promulgated after the Third Plenum of the Party's Central Committee, took note of lags in the implementation of the revolutionary land reform program and called upon cadres and fighters throughout the country to give it sufficient attention.

Only thus can the Party and its military arm speed up the mobilization of the exploited and oppressed masses in the countryside, the document added.

"Our Urgent Tasks" said that as early as the successful establishment of the peasant organizing committee over a large area in the countryside, even if only in some scores of barrios, "it is possible to take such a simple and easy first step towards land reform as the reduction of land rent through the systematic withholding of a certain part of the crop without the landlords' knowledge".

Along with this, it called for campaigns to reduce interest rates and eliminate usury, arrange fair prices with merchants, promote savings, mutual aid and simple exchange of labor and non-payment of debts under the fascist regime's usurious "Husagana 99", and raise production and productivity.

The document pointed out that these can be successfully undertaken "only if the peasant masses are well organized, united and have a high level of political consciousness".

One error of the past in the Eastern Visayas was that although cadres and fighters carried on revolutionary propaganda among the peasants, emphasis was on the antifascist rather than the antifeudal aspects of the struggle. Party cadres in the region said there also was neglect in carrying out agrarian revolution.

The latest report said corrective measures are now being taken and that the antifascist, antifeudal and anti-imperialist aspects are being given their corresponding emphasis in the rural as well as urban areas. So are the legal, semilegal and illegal forms of struggle and how these relate to one another.

Citing the case of the two fighting fronts in Samar, our correspondents said CPP-NPA units are now more conscientious and persevering in social investigation and in the campaign to lower the land rent, increase the wages of farm workers, and popularize simple forms of cooperation, especially among the poor and lower-middle peasants.

They also said that in the last two harvests, the shares of the parasitic landlords were reduced not only in the ricefields but in coconut plantations of several barrios. The campaign has since been expanded to other barrios, they added.

The average reduction of land rent has been 20 percent. This brought immediate relief to the peasants. But even this percentage is small considering the intense exploitation of the peasants, according to our correspondents.

On the surface, the sharing ratio in many areas of the Eastern Visayas, especially in remote areas, is 50-50. The peasant and the landlord are supposed to share equally in the farm expenses and then split the harvest 50-50.

But the peasant virtually shoulders all the expenses, including those for seedlings and the food and wages of farm workers whose help he calls upon during the planting and harvesting. His share, therefore, comes to only a small percentage.

Adding to the peasants' hardships are the primitive methods of farming still prevailing and the government's utter neglect in water conservation and irrigation.

The peasants depend only on the rains, overturn the earth not by plows but by having their carabaos pace the fields repeatedly, and have no access to pesticides or fertilizers.

As the Party cadres and Red fighters pursue the revolutionary land reform program, they also give close attention to workers in mining and logging camps and to fishermen in the coastal areas. The mobilization of the fishermen is of great importance because of the many islands in the region, according to our correspondents.

In the military sphere, they reported that political and military training of full-time guerrilla units is being intensified. In preparation for armed confrontations with the enemy, the Red fighters conduct raid, ambush and other drills and combat maneuvers.

Among their ideological guides are "Our Urgent Tasks", "Specific Characteristics of Our People's War", and the "Selected Military Writings" of Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

In the urban areas of the region, meantime, efforts are being redoubled to mobilize the workers, the urban poor, the petty bourgeoisie and nationalist businessmen. Party cadres now have a clearer perspective of the supportive role of white area work to the armed struggle in the countryside.

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FRAUDULENT 'MASAGANA 99' SCHEME
SPARKS PEASANTS' UNITY, RESISTANCE

With his usurious "Masagana 99" scheme, the fascist chieftain Marcos and his U.S. imperialist masters meant to swindle the country's peasantry.

The scheme backfired because hundreds of thousands of peasants who acquired loans under "Masagana 99" now rightfully refuse to pay a patently unjust debt.

More, the fascist dictatorship's swindle plot has given rise to mass movements in the countryside not only against "Masagana 99" but against the entire semifeudal and semicolonial system that virtually enslaves the peasants.

Resistance heightens whenever the martial law regime arrests some of the peasant-debtors in the expectation that all the others would be intimidated and pay up. For the moment, the regime is using "soft tactics" mainly in the form of propaganda through the captive mass media. It is not working either.

In the various guerrilla zones of the New People's Army throughout the country, peasants and their Red fighters discuss "Masagana 99" in detail. They reach only one conclusion: to pay would be to cooperate with their own oppressors.

In the process of discussion, the various other forms of exploitation and oppression to which the country's peasants are subjected come into clearer focus. The peasants realize the value of unity, organization and struggle. The more the regime threatens or actually uses force, the closer the peasants' unity and the higher the forms of struggle.

The extent of the peasants' resistance can be gleaned from the fascist dictatorship's own statistics. It says that since "Masagana 99" started in 1973, P3.8 billion have been loaned out and that only 68 percent has been paid back. This means that 32 percent, or about P1.2 billion, remains unpaid.

A better indicator might be the number of peasant-borrowers. In 1973, according to Agriculture Secretary Arturo Tanco Jr., 640,000 peasants were covered by "Masagana 99". If the peasant-borrower paid his loan, he could borrow again.

This year, Tanco concedes, the number of borrowers is down to 180,000. The conclusion is inescapable that the rest refuse to pay and refuse to have anything more to do with "Masagana 99", for good reason.

No project as maliciously conceived as "Masagana 99" could possibly bear any good fruit. Along with its companion program, "Masaganang Naisan", it purportedly was intended to increase the peasants' incomes and boost the country's rice and corn production to the point of national self-sufficiency.

The peasants were required to plant supposedly high-yielding varieties of rice and corn that required massive doses of fertilizer, pesticide and other agricultural chemicals. The peasant who applied for the loan got a little cash. The bulk of the loan was in the form of certificates for fertilizers and pesticides.

In other words, whether he needed these or not, he had to buy them--at great cost.

This is where Marcos and his U.S. imperialist masters came in. The U.S.-dominated oil cartel supplies the raw materials to make the various agricultural chemicals. To share in the profit, Marcos bought 3300 Philippines' local manufacturing facilities and set up Planters Products,

Inc. With a captive market, Planters Products was assured of a virtual monopoly and vast profits.

Meantime, the peasant-debtor of "Masagana 99" or "Masaganang Maisan" was trapped. The prices of the fertilizers and pesticides he was required to buy rose from year to year. His yield may have increased slightly but this was not enough to pay back the loan.

Proof that no appreciable increase has been attained in production since 1973 is the fact that Philippine rice and corn yields per hectare continue to be among the lowest in the world. (See following article.)

To be able to pay back the loan, the peasant has to tighten his belt further, or borrow from other usurers.

The peasant refuses to do either of these. Already exploited by the landlord who exacts a prohibitive land rent, he has had enough. He unites with other peasants in the barrio, including those who are indebted to "Masagana 99". If the fascist regime moves to prosecute or imprison debtors, they struggle together.

The mass movements against "Masagana 99" help mobilize the peasants to join the revolution against the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship.

* * *

PHILIPPINES FACES ANOTHER SEVERE RICE, CORN SHORTAGE

The Filipino people are confronted by another severe shortage in rice and corn this year, contrary to claims of the Marcos fascist dictatorship that the country has attained self-sufficiency in these staples.

A critical analysis of the reactionary government's own data indicates that the rice shortage this year may be as much as 800,000 metric tons. This is being covered up by importations.

As for corn, the fascist regime has quietly abandoned its claims of sufficiency and now admits that it is importing 120,000 metric tons worth P100 million from the United States and Thailand.

The regime's desperate efforts at projecting an image of advancement in agricultural production would have been funny were it not for the fact that the subject of its lies is the very livelihood of the people. Foremost of the regime's "comedians" is Agriculture Secretary Arturo Tanco Jr.

In 1974, Tanco said the regime's "Masagana 99" program was so successful that the rice production was enough to feed the people. In May last year, he went as far as to say that the Philippines had enough reserves to allow it to export some "surplus".

All the while, though, the regime was importing rice in large quantities. Tanco admitted in a statement last May 13 that the Philippines imported P2.2 billion worth of rice from 1971 to 1975.

Characteristically, the agriculture secretary coupled this admission with another grand claim that the rice production for the crop year 1976-77 reached 4 million metric tons, supposedly exceeding the country's needs by 100,000 metric tons. Another "surplus"!

An examination of the reactionary government's own statistics and data from other sources shows that Tanco will have to eat his words again.

Rice production in the Philippines is among the lowest in the world, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization, an agency of the United Nations.

An FAO world production survey in 1973 showed that the Philippines, with a national average of only 31 cavans of palay per hectare, ranked 69th in a list of 70 rice-producing countries. In 1975, after three years of "Masagana 99", the national average stayed at 32 cavans per hectare, according to official estimates.

Considering Tanco's own admission that "Masagana 99" has been a gigantic flop, his new claim that the country produced 4 million metric tons of milled rice in crop year 1976-77 is ridiculous.

To produce this much rice, the national average production per hectare would have had to jump in one year from 32 cavans to 41 cavans.

Party cadres and Red fighters in various parts of the country report that 20 to 30 cavans per hectare are common. In unirrigated areas in southeastern Pampanga, it is not uncommon for a farmer to reap only 20 cavans from a three-hectare riceland.

But even taking 32 cavans per hectare as the national average, the total production in 3.6 million hectares of ricelands in the Philippines would be only about 3.1 million tons of rice, around 800,000 tons short of the country's needs as estimated by Tanco himself.

Whatever "reserves" the regime speaks of at this time are likely to be leftovers of large importations contracted in 1971-72 whose delivery was delayed.

Just as absurd as Tanco's claims of "self-sufficiency" in rice are similar claims for corn. First he spoke of sufficiency in corn "solely from domestic production". Two weeks later, he admitted that the regime's "Masaganang Maisan" project was a failure, like "Masagana 99".

"...All actual accomplishments are way below target levels," he said, admitting that 120,000 metric tons of the cereal have to be imported at the cost of P100 million to fill the country's requirements.

True to form, he again coupled this admission with a projection that the country would be self-sufficient in corn in three years.

This means doubling the corn production per hectare, an impossible target considering the FAO's findings that the Philippines was 96th out of 100 corn-producing countries in the world, and the admitted failure of "Masaganang Maisan".

The perennial problem of low productivity and big shortages in rice and corn despite the Philippines' rich natural resources expose more than just the fascist regime's incompetence in managing the country's food production. It speaks of the semicolonial and semifeudal conditions in Philippine agriculture.

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ISLAMIC CONFERENCE CONDEMNS MARCOS REGIME FOR EVADING INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS

The recently concluded Islamic Conference in Jamahiriyah (formerly Libya) condemned the fascist Marcos regime for "shirking its international responsibilities and obligations" in its dealings with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

In an 11-point resolution, the conference also called upon its 42 member nations to support the MNLF "in all ways and means to achieve all the demands" of the Front and the Moro people in Mindanao.

It gave Islamic Conference Secretary General Ahmed Karim Gai the task of tapping the Islamic states for "emergency assistance" to the MNLF and its military arm, the Bangsa Moro Army.

While denouncing the Marcos government for breaking its international commitments, the 42-nation conference decided to give it another chance before harsher measures are considered. It called for continued talks with the Marcos regime looking towards a peaceful solution to the Mindanao problem.

The Islamic Conference adopted the resolution upon hearing and discussing the report of Gai and its Quadripartite Ministerial Commission which had been mediating in the armed conflict between the Marcos regime and the MNLF.

Gai and the commission denounced Marcos for deliberately sabotaging the negotiations in Manila in late April so he could pursue his campaign of genocide against the Moro people.

They narrated how the fascist chieftain Marcos systematically violated the Tripoli agreement of Dec. 23, 1976, between his government and the MNLF, and the Marcos-Khaddafi agreement of April this year.

In these two agreements, Marcos had pledged autonomy to the Moro people in 13 provinces in Mindanao. As it turned out, all he intended to grant was bogus autonomy. He also intensified his efforts to wreck the MNLF.

Among the MNLF's staunchest supporters at the conference was the Rabitat Alalam Alislami, or Muslim World League.

"It is incumbent on the governments of Muslim countries to press hard on the government of the Philippines to fulfill its promises without delay or swerving," the league said.

It called upon the Islamic Conference's member countries to register "strongest disapproval" of the "conspiracies committed by the Marcos government to distort the reputation of Muslim leaders".

In Mindanao, meanwhile, the ceasefire agreed upon in Tripoli last December between the Marcos regime and the MNLF was being violated with impunity by the reactionary Armed Forces of the Philippines. Clashes between the AFP and the BMA have been multiplying, according to reports reaching Ang Bayan.

Most of these are reported in the Marcos-controlled mass media as clashes with "smugglers" or "bandits".

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PHILIPPINE MEDICAL SERVICE UNRESPONSIVE TO NEEDS OF THE MASSES

The masses of the Filipino people are poor, malnourished, and live in unhealthy surroundings. Consequently, they are susceptible to all sorts of diseases, particularly the communicable ones.

And precisely because of their poverty and government neglect, hundreds of thousands of them die every year without any medical attention whatsoever.

Even the fascist chieftain Marcos admits from time to time that most Filipinos die without ever seeing a doctor or getting any medicine. But

while acknowledging his regime's dismal record in public health, Marcos continues to give only token attention to this serious problem.

Of the huge national budget for fiscal year 1977 estimated at P27.3 billion, for instance, the appropriation of the Department of Health is only about P990 million, or 3.61 percent.

This is a mere pittance compared to the P4.7 billion budget of the Department of National Defense, P3.3 billion of the Department of Public Works, Transportation and Communication, and P2.7 billion of the Department of Public Highways.

And this speaks clearly of the martial law regime's system of priorities: top attention is given to the parasitic DND and Armed Forces of the Philippines which are needed to prop up Marcos' corrupt and oppressive rule, and to showy infrastructure projects from which the fascist chieftain and his subordinates get kickback amounting to hundreds of millions of pesos every year.

On the other hand, public health gets a lot of lip service from the regime but little else. Data on the national budget released by the Department of Public Information shows that the Department of Health ranked only No. 8 in the budgetary allocations for the current fiscal year.

The low priority given to this sphere of government activity is shown by the severe overcrowding in the few public hospitals and health centers in urban areas and in the total absence of clinics or even just visiting public health teams in the rural areas.

Cadres of the Communist Party of the Philippines and Red fighters of the New People's Army report that whenever a CPP-NPA medical team gets to a remote barrio or sitio, peasant families who have never seen a government doctor or nurse in their lives come forward in droves seeking medical help.

Limited as their resources are, the CPP-NPA medical workers enthusiastically share their skills and their medical supplies with the peasant masses. Their knowledge of acupuncture also comes in handy for a variety of the people's ailments.

The problem is not completely lost on government health men. Health Secretary Clemente Gatmaitan and Health Undersecretary J.C. Azurin told an international conference in Manila last year that hunger and disease continue to stalk the Filipino people, especially in the countryside. They also admitted that government efforts in this area have been pitifully inadequate.

But their conclusions are superficial in that these fail to pinpoint the root of the problem--the semicolonial and semifeudal system that condemns the masses to poverty, hunger, disease and premature death.

Stacked up against the people are the exorbitant cost of medicine from which foreign drug firms and a few local ones exact superprofits, the extortionate medicare program of the government, and the stress on such fancy hospitals as Imelda Marcos' Philippine Heart Center for Asia designed primarily to serve the rich.

Also working against them is the bourgeois orientation in medical and nursing schools where the students and their families are squeezed dry in the form of prohibitive tuition fees.

Upon graduation, the students practise their professions in the urban centers or seek employment abroad to recover what was spent on their education. Since the government pays meager salaries, they prefer private employment. Personal advancement is stressed rather than service to the people.

Along with Dr. J.J. Dizon, director of health services and disease control, Gatmaitan and Azurin said that among the principal problems of public health are: a) communicable disease control; b) malnutrition; c) poor environmental sanitation; d) rising cost of health care; e) inequitable distribution of health facilities; and f) shortage of health manpower in rural areas.

Citing statistics in the Department of Health, they said that 44 percent of all deaths in the country are due to such communicable diseases as the pneumonias, tuberculosis, gastro-enteritis, diseases of early infancy, and avitaminosis and other nutritional deficiencies.

Malnutrition was seen as the underlying cause of the high percentage of deaths among children under five years of age. Government statistics show that 23 percent of the total deaths were infants and 40 percent of these deaths were children below five.

Hunger among the people is illustrated by a mass-weighing operation conducted by the government among pre-schoolers. It showed that only 22 percent of those weighed could be classified as normal in weight, while 45 percent were classified as in the first degree, or severe, malnutrition.

The percentage of malnourished children could even be much higher since the government mass-weighing project did not penetrate into the particularly depressed areas. An example are the mountain provinces in the Cordilleras where a big number of the Igorot masses must subsist on nothing but sweet potato (kamote) for most of the year.

Another government survey shows that only 32 percent of all households are provided with sanitary toilets and only 16 million people are provided with potable water.

To take care of the health of the majority of the 44 million Filipino people, the Department of Health has only 1,596 rural health centers manned by 1,324 physicians, 1,225 nurses, 2,980 midwives and 2,101 sanitation inspectors.

From these figures, we see that there is only one rural health center for every 22,000 of the rural population, one doctor for every 27,000, one nurse for every 30,000, one midwife for every 12,000, and one sanitary inspector for every 17,000.

Even these figures are deceptive since the health centers are located near the town plaza or in the immediate outskirts of a town. The masses in far-flung barrios and sitios remain with no medical or health services to speak of.

In the face of the grave health problem, Gatmaitan and Azurin said they must be "innovative". They said they would ask their master Marcos for a bigger budget. But if they do not get enough, as it is likely they will not, they said they would charge fees from the masses.

In other words, the masses who are already being bled by the oppressive taxes and other impositions of the martial law regime would be squeezed some more for the meager health services that they already pay for with the enormous taxes extorted from them.

And if the masses tighten their belts to be able to pay the projected fees, they would be even hungrier and more susceptible to diseases. Consequently, they will be more in need of medical services that the reactionary government is not prepared to provide.

Clearly, this vicious cycle will persist and grow worse until the national democratic revolution overthrows the present semicolonial and semi-feudal system. Then and only then can the people and their national democratic government inaugurate a program that ascertains the health of the people.

MEDICAL SERVICES IN PEOPLE'S CHINA ADEQUATE, EVEN IN REMOTEST AREAS

For thousands of years before China's liberation in 1949, medical knowledge and medical services were monopolized by the exploiting landlord and capitalist classes and the intellectuals attached to them.

Millions of Chinese workers and peasants died of starvation and disease every year without the least relief from the fascist Kuomintang regime that fostered the semicolonial and semifeudal system in that country.

Today, with the Communist Party of China and the socialist state leading the way, the masses of China are making giant strides in promoting sound nutrition and public health and sanitation.

Vast as China is in area and in population, there is hardly any place in that country today, even in the remotest mountain region, that is not served by a medical and health unit. And medical services cost very little if not totally free.

Public health was one of the principal concerns of Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the Communist Party of China after leading the national democratic revolution that toppled the hated Kuomintang regime in 1949.

The massive undertaking of ensuring the health of the Chinese people gained momentum with the launching of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in the 1960s.

Providing guidance in health work was Chairman Mao's Marxist-Leninist line. In essence, his revolutionary line meant the work must be oriented to serving the workers, peasants and soldiers who make up the overwhelming majority of the people; the stress in this work must be put on the rural areas; preventive medicine must be given priority over curative medicine.

It also meant that medical workers practicing traditional Chinese or Western medicine must work in unity to fully explore and tap China's medical treasure house, and health work must be combined with mass movements.

The key in the expansion of medical services to the remotest rural areas are the "barefoot doctors" of the cooperative medical system. The barefoot doctors are so called because they themselves are peasants who have had basic medical training and who work in the fields when not treating a patient.

To give an idea how the system works, Peking Review, a Chinese news-weekly magazine, featured in its issue of Feb. 25, 1977, the production brigade of Tuchow, which forms part of the Hoping people's commune in northern Kwangsi.

High up in the mountains, the Tuchow production brigade has nine production teams spread out in 20 scattered villages with a total of 200 households populated by a thousand people.

Before liberation, every village in Tuchow had a graveyard solely for burying infants and children because infant mortality was extremely high. In the old days there were neither doctors nor medicine in the rural areas and the peasants could not afford to pay for medical treatment.

"Diseases in those days worked hand in hand with the exploiting classes to make life unbearably hard for the laboring people of Tuchow and elsewhere," Peking Review said. "When there were epidemics, they took a heavy toll of the poor."

Barefoot doctors and the cooperative medical system got to the Tuchow brigade in April 1969. Its clinic today is a two-story building with an outpatient department, a dispensary, a sick ward and a maternity ward. The small dispensary has more than 100 kinds of pills, medical herbs and injectants.

The Peking Review correspondents who visited the brigade clinic found the usual paraphernalia for measuring blood pressure, sterilizing equipment, bundles of scalpels and other instruments, blood transfusion bottles and stands, and different birth control equipment.

The clinic has three staff members, all of them children of formerly impoverished peasants in the locality. They are Meng Chia-chien, 27, Pan I-kang, 32, and Wei Wan-yun, an 18-year-old girl. They have all had schooling aside from medical training. Wei had just returned from a year's course in a health care school run by the state.

Among them, the three can competently handle common complaints such as pneumonias, hepatitis, asthma and rheumatism. They can sew up superficial wounds, lance abscesses, give acupuncture treatment, give injections and transfusions, attend births including difficult cases, and do everything required in birth control work.

"When brigade members become ill, the barefoot doctors are there to treat them, come wind, come rain," Peking Review said. Meng, Pan and Wei handled 2,000 cases in one year, of which 15 percent were treated at the clinic. The rest were home calls.

Whatever cases the brigade clinic cannot handle are referred to the commune clinic and, if necessary, to the county hospital, or prefectural or autonomous region hospitals.

When Tuchow's cooperative medical system started, funds were provided by brigade members who paid half (.9 yuan or about P3.33 per head). The production team shouldered the other half from its public welfare fund.

Today a patient pays the equivalent of less than P0.20 for registration and nothing more. The production team's public welfare fund sees to the financing.

In implementation of the principle laid down by Chairman Mao to "put prevention first", Tuchow's barefoot doctors and those in other parts of China organize the masses to wipe out mosquitoes and flies, construct and improve lavatories, and do a good job of night-soil disposal*.

"Together, they sink drinking wells to change the old habit of drinking ditch water and river water, and move the animal pens out to places far away from human habitation," Peking Review said. "They also make use of blackboards, wall newspapers and meetings to publicize knowledge about hygiene and foster among the commune members the habit of paying constant attention to hygiene."

Mass inoculations or vaccinations are also undertaken. Since 1970, for instance, barefoot doctors in Inshan county in the Kwangsi Chuang autonomous region have given 3.65 million inoculations or vaccinations against 15 types of infectious diseases.

Various seasonal epidemics are combated by early adoption of preventive measures and the administration of medicine is done on a house-to-house basis or in the fields.

Peking Review reported that China today has 1.5 million trained barefoot doctors of poor and lower-middle peasant origin.

"This has broken for the first time the monopoly of the landlord and capitalist classes in a field which has a vital bearing on the well-being of the people," the newsmagazine said. "It is of great help in strengthening the dictatorship of the proletariat over the bourgeoisie."

*Night soil is human excrement collected for fertilizing the soil.

POSTSCRIPT TO ZAMBOANGA CITY HIJACK:
AFP TROOPS ROBBED PAL PASSENGERS.

Puppet troops of the martial law regime who assaulted a hijacked Philippine Air Lines jetliner in Zamboanga City on May 23 last year killed and wounded many of the passengers. They also robbed the passengers whom they were supposed to be rescuing.

To this day, the passengers who were robbed are trying to recover their stolen personal effects. But they are not getting any cooperation from the Marcos regime. Repeated requests for assistance from ranking officers of the reactionary Armed Forces of the Philippines have been ignored.

The Thai embassy in Manila reportedly is preparing to intervene in behalf of a Thai national, Mr. Thonglor, who was robbed of \$2,000 (around P15,000 at the official rate of exchange) by his "rescuers".

Thonglor, a noted orchid collector, was in the Philippines with his wife and child when the hijacking took place. They were passengers on the PAL jetliner.

According to Thonglor, his \$2,000 was in 20 travellers checks of \$100 each. These were in a bag containing his family's passports and other travel papers. After they were "rescued", the checks were missing although their papers were intact.

He immediately reported the theft to AFP authorities in Mindanao, since nobody got near them except puppet AFP troops who assaulted the airplane. Thonglor was told that the checks could not be traced.

Three months later, in August of last year, the checks were encashed at the Zamboanga City branches of the Bank of the Philippine Islands and Philippine Commercial and Industrial Bank. Until today, the AFP says it has no suspects although it could easily inquire at the two banks.

The Thonglors were not the only passengers who were robbed by the puppet soldiers. Many others were Filipinos.

It will be recalled that the PAL jetliner was boarded by armed hijackers who demanded that they be taken to a foreign country. The regime prevented the plane's departure, completely disregarding the safety of all the passengers and the entire crew.

With tear gas, grenades and high-powered automatic weapons, the fascist AFP troops rushed the plane, wounding or killing many of the passengers.

While the passengers lay dazed, wounded or dead, the soldiers proceeded to divest them of their wallets, watches, jewelry and other personal effects.

From what they did, it is clear that their intent was murder and robbery. In this they were abetted by their superior officers, as shown by the fact that not a single robber has been brought to justice until now notwithstanding the surviving passengers' complaints.

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